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THE AMERICAN MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

BY THE SECRETARY.

The mycologists present at the Washington meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1902, held an informal conference to consider the advisability of forming an organization. The sentiment proved to be strongly in favor of such a movement, but it was felt that the matter should be carefully looked into before decisive steps were taken. Accordingly, a committee on organization, consisting of Messrs. Earle, Shear, and Clements, was appointed to correspond with the mycologists of the country, and learn their views on the project. This committee met immediately to formulate plans and to draw up a tentative list of those whose interest might be such as to make them favor such a society. In April a circular letter was sent to these, in which expressions were asked as to the desirability and the form of organization. The response was so general and so enthusiastic, that the committee decided to proceed in the matter of making definite plans for organizing at St. Louis. A second letter was issued in December, fixing a time for meeting, and calling attention to the fact that arrangements had been made with Section G, by which Wednesday morning of the session was set apart for a mycological program.

The meeting for organization was called to order at 4 P. M. Tuesday, December 29, 1903, in the Central High School. A temporary organization was effected by electing Professor Arthur chairman, and Dr. Clements secretary. The report of the committee was read by Mr. Shear; it was as follows:

“The committee appointed at the informal meeting of the mycologists held at Washington last winter beg leave to submit the following report. Letters were sent to twenty-five mycologists, presenting a tentative plan, and asking their opinion as to the desirability of the society and the form of organization, whether as an independent society or a sub-section. Answers have been received from twenty-four of these, all heartily favoring the movement. As there was considerable diversity of opinion as to the form of the society, the committee has thought it best to suggest that an independent organization be perfected at present, but with the express purpose of affiliating as a section when feasible. Your committee has seen fit to call a meeting with a view to organization at this time, as the needs of our work and the sentiment of mycologists seem amply to justify such action. Through the courtesy of Section G, a mycological program has been arranged for Wednesday morning. Letters to this effect have been sent out to the mycologists, and in nearly every case replies have been received, expressing approval of the course.

In order to further facilitate permanent organization, your committee submits herewith the tentative draft of a constitution, together with proposals for committees upon charter membership; upon terminology, chromotaxia, etc., and upon affiliation with other botanical societies."

The report of the committee was accepted, with the exception of the provision relating to constitution, and the committee was discharged. It was moved by Professor Atkinson, seconded and carried, that the meeting organize permanently under a simple set of rules. It was also moved and carried that the meeting proceed to the election of a president, vice-president, and a secretary-treasurer, to serve to the close of the next annual meeting, and that the ballot be *viva voce*.

The following officers were elected: President, Dr. Thaxter, Harvard; Vice President, Dr. Earle, New York; Secretary-treasurer, Dr. Clements, Nebraska. It was moved and carried that the president be empowered to appoint a committee of three to consider plans of affiliation with the other societies. The president asked for an expression of opinion in regard to the matter of affiliation, in the course of which it was evident that the society was a unit in favor of such a step. The committee appointed consists of Mr. Shear, Professor Atkinson, and Professor Burrill. Dr. Farlow raised the question of the membership of the society, and it was finally determined that those present as well as those to whom the circular letters were sent should be considered charter members, upon signifying their intention, and upon the payment of the assessment of one dollar. The meeting then adjourned.

The mycologists present were Arthur, Atkinson, Burrill, Clements, Clinton, Duggar, Farlow, Fink, Freeman, Hedgcock, Kellerman, Macbride, Shear, Thaxter, Tracy.

The papers presented Wednesday morning were as follows:

The Genus *Harpochytrium*; Its Development, Synonymy and Distribution. G. F. Atkinson.

The Phylogeny of Lichens. F. E. Clements.

The Necessity of Reform in the Nomenclature of Fungi. F. S. Earle.

The Taxonomic Value of the Spermogonium. J. C. Arthur.

Proof of the Identity of *Phoma* and *Phyllosticta* on the Sugar Beet. G. G. Hedgcock.

Unpublished Notes on the Uredineae. M. A. Carleton.

Craterellus taxophilus, a New Species of Thelephoraceae. C. Thom.

Fungi Cultivated by Texas Ants. A. M. Ferguson.

Symbiosis in *Lolium*. E. M. Freeman.

In the afternoon of the same day the following mycological papers were, by courteous arrangement, read before the Botanical Society:

Cultures of Uredineae in 1903. J. C. Arthur.

Uredineous Infection Experiments in 1903. W. A. Kellerman.